To: Beaudin, Marcel (OPP)[Marcel.Beaudin@opp.ca]
From: Lott, Nicole (OPP)[/O=OPP/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=NICOLE.LOTT]
Sent: Fri 2/4/2022 6:51:37 AM (UTC-05:00)
Subject: FW: Confederation Park

For your awareness Sir,
Nic

From: Armstrong, Stacey (OPP)
Sent: 3-Feb-22 9:22 PM
To: Thibodeau, Gaston (OPP) <Gaston.Thibodeau@opp.ca>; Snider, Adam (OPP) <Adam.Snider@opp.ca>; MacDonald, Marvin (OPP) <Marvin.MacDonald@opp.ca>; Sharpe, Craig (OPP) <Craig.Sharpe@opp.ca>; Conant, Robert (OPP) <Robert.Conant@opp.ca>; Ingalls, Trish (OPP) <Trish.Ingalls@opp.ca>; Palermo, Catherine R. (OPP) <Catherine.R.Palermo@opp.ca>; Marlin, Karen (OPP) <Karen.Marlin@opp.ca>
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Subject: Confederation Park

Good Evening,

I just wanted to send a quick update regarding the gathering at Confederation Park in Ottawa. Since the commencement of the truck convoy protest, there have been some instances of protestors purportedly engaging Indigenous ceremonial practices (sacred fire, hand drumming, pipe ceremony, smudging etc). Protestors at Confederation Park have also stated their intention to erect teepees at the Park and a number of wooden poles have been laid out in the park. Subsequent statements issued by Algonquin communities, First Nations political bodies, and Indigenous community organizations in the Ottawa area strongly oppose the convoy protest, disavow the actions in Confederation Park and pledge to support Ottawa Police Service should enforcement action be required.

A number of the individuals present at Confederation Park appear to have joined the convoy at various points as it travelled from western Canada, primarily Alberta and Manitoba. Some appear to follow convoy protest organizer Pat KING, who was gifted a pipe yesterday in a "ceremony" at the park. That "ceremony" appears to have been led by Joseph Dwayne ANDERSON of Winnipeg, MB. Earlier this week, ANDERSON provided a letter to OPS claiming that he is the Chief of "Ruperts Land" (the term used to refer to the area previously owned by the Hudson's Bay Company before it was sold to the Crown and post-Confederation became Ontario, Manitoba, Sask., and part of Alberta and NWT). ANDERSON travelled to Ottawa with a gentlemen I have not been able to identify but uses the alias "Rainmaker Ra" on social media. A video posted to the "Rainmaker Ra" account this evening provided a tour of the park, including a number of tents, trailers, a wood structure and assembly line/kitchen area providing food.

Some of the individuals who have self-identified as Indigenous or as representing fictitious Indigenous communities appear to be leveraging the protest, ostensibly for their own agendas. Others appear to conflate being "Indigenous" with being "indigenous" and therefore define anyone born in Canada as "Indigenous". Information posted to social media also indicates that some of these individuals may be associated to the Anishinabek Solutrean Metis Indigenous Nation (ASMIN). The term Solutrean is a reference to the Solutrean Hypothesis which "claims that the earliest human migration to the Americas took place from Europe." ASMIN is not a recognized entity and it appears that anyone who pays a fee can become a "member". Curiously, the ASMIN website is unavailable at the moment to "review and upgrade security." ASMIN "Grand Chief" Zane BELL aka Wabiska Mukwa has apparently *granted "citizenship" to leaders of the anti-mask movement in Toronto* and falsely presented as a representative of the Metis Nation of Ontario. ASMIN seems to borrow some language from the sovereign citizens movement and critics have argued that it is part of a broader "social phenomenon that has taken off in the twenty-first century: otherwise white, French descendant settlers in Canada shifting into a self-defined 'Indigenous' identity."

For consideration:
Dubious claims of Indigenous heritage by some protest organizers and participants have already caused some Indigenous leaders to disassociate from the convoy protest, and will likely continue to limit sympathy for the convoy protest in Indigenous communities. While plans to erect teepees at Confederation Park have been paused as a result of the concerns expressed by Algonquin communities, information posted to social media indicates that another ANDERSON will host another "ceremony" Confederation Park **tomorrow (Feb 4).** It is possible that participants may attempt to erect the teepees following the ceremony and could attempt to claim authority from a "traditional" entity and disregarding the Algonquin statement as a "colonial" ploy. Further, it is possible that some of the individuals gathered at Confederation Park are deliberately attempting to create the

appearance of Indigeneity in an effort to legitimize their actions. This could also be part of a broader strategy by protest organizers to create a “safe space” at the park; essentially co-opting Indigenous status in an effort to logistically support the broader protest action and insulate from law enforcement.

I apologize if this is duplication or not of interest, but I wanted to highlight the potential significance of the “Indigenous” presence at this event. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thank you,

Stacey Armstrong
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